the operator can selectively and reversibly pull said string for holding it in the catch means and release the string to permit the haptics to expand.

16. An intraocular lens as claimed in claim 15, wherein said lens body has a hole adjacent to its periphery, said string extending through said hole.

17. An intraocular lens comprising:

(a) a lens adapted for intraocular insertion and positioning and being comprised of:

(i) a lens body, and

(ii) a plurality of flexible haptics, each of said haptics having a free end portion and a connected end portion permanently secured to the lens body adjacent its periphery, the free end portions of said haptics normally extending away from said periphery of the lens body and being angularly spaced around said periphery; and

(b) means for maintaining said flexible haptics, prior and during said insertion, in a compressed or loaded position substantially within the space defined by the periphery of said lens body and close to one of the surfaces of said lens body, whereby, when said haptics are in said loaded position, the overall size of said lens assembly is reduced and insertion of said lens assembly into the eye facilitated,

said maintaining means comprising a catch-like indentation in the lens body adjacent its periphery for each of the haptics, said free end portions of said haptics being capable of engaging in said indentations to be detachably held therein.

18. An intraocular lens comprising:

(a) a lens adapted for intraocular insertion and positioning and being comprised of:

(i) a lens body, and

(ii) a plurality of flexible haptics, each of said haptics having a free end portion and a connected end portion permanently secured to the lens body adjacent its periphery, the free end portions of said haptics normally extending away from said periphery of the lens body and being angularly spaced around said periphery; and

(b) means for maintaining said flexible haptics, prior and during said insertion, in a compressed or loaded position substantially within the space defined by the periphery of said lens body and close to one of the surfaces of said lens body, whereby, when said haptics are in said loaded position, the overall size of said lens assembly is reduced and insertion of said lens assembly into the eye facilitated,

said maintaining means being in the form of a hole for each of the haptics, said holes being provided in the lens body near its periphery, the free end portion of each of the haptics having a protrusion capable of snapping into the respective hole for detachable engagement by the walls thereof.

19. An intraocular lens comprising:

(a) a lens adapted for intraocular insertion and positioning and being comprised of:

(i) a lens body, and

(ii) a plurality of flexible haptics, each of said haptics having a free end portion and a connected end portion permanently and directly secured to the lens body adjacent its periphery, the free end portions of said haptics normally extending away from said periphery of the lens body and being angularly spaced around said periphery; and

(b) means for maintaining at least one of said flexible haptics, prior and during said insertion, in a compressed or loaded position substantially within the space defined by the periphery of said lens body and close to one of the surfaces of said lens body, said periphery, except for said haptics, being devoid of any projections extending away from said periphery whereby, when said haptic is in said loaded position, insertion of said lens assembly into the eye is facilitated, said maintaining means comprising a string, at least said one of said haptics having an eyelet member between said free and connected end portions, said string being looped through the eyelet member of the haptic and being capable of being pulled so that the free end portion of said haptic is drawn into said space defined by the periphery of said lens body, catch means provided on said lens body for detachably holding said string in its pulled condition, said lens body having at least one hole adjacent its periphery, said string extending through said hole.

20. A prepackaged intraocular lens assembly comprising in combination:

(a) a lens adapted for intraocular insertion and positioning and having:

(i) a lens body, and

(ii) a plurality of flexible haptics, each of said haptics having a free end portion and a connected end portion directly secured to the lens body adjacent its periphery, the free end portions of said haptics normally extending away from the periphery of the lens body and being angularly spaced around said periphery, said periphery, except for said haptics, being devoid of any projections extending away from said periphery,

(b) a manipulating member detachably attached to said lens body near its periphery for manipulating said lens during said insertion and positioning,

(c) said manipulating member comprising a string, at least one of said haptics having an eyelet member between said free and connected end portions, said string being looped through the eyelet member of said one haptic and being capable of being pulled so that the free end portion of said haptic is drawn into the space defined by the periphery of said lens body, catch means provided on said manipulating member for detachably holding said string in its pulled condition, said lens body having at least one hole adjacent its periphery, said string extending through said hole.

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